

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 CIAE-00

FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 /033 W

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R 010842Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7623

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME FOR INS/FALCHER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, OGEN

SUBJECT: REFUGEES - SOVIET ARMENIAN AND IRAQUI ASSYRIAN CHRISTIANS

1. IN THE SPRING OF 1976 OVER 2500 UNHCR MANDATED REFUGEES WERE TRANSFERRED BY UNHCR AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FROM LEBANON TO ATHENS, FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH USG AND GOG. LATTER AGREED, THAT OWING TO CONFLICT IN LEBANON, REFUGEE GROUP OF SOVIET ARMENIANS AND IRAQUI ASSYRIAN CHRISTIANS COULD ENTER GREECE TEMPORARILY FOR PROCESSING FOR ONWARD TRAVEL TO OTHER COUNTRIES. ALL OF GROUP HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED DESIRE TO ENTER UNITED STATES. BETWEEN MARCH AND MAY APPROXIMATELY 90 PERCENT OF REFUGEES WERE APPROVED BY INS AND/OR EMBASSY FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY OR IMMIGRANT VISAS TO THE UNITED STATES.

SUBSEQUENTLY, ABOUT 25 PERCENT OF REJECTEEES WERE ADMITTED THROUGH SUCCESSFUL APPEAL OF EARLIER REFUSALS.

2. FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, REMAINDER OF GROUP CONTINUE AT ATHENS AS WARDS OF THE UNHCR AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. LATTER ARE ATTEMPTING ASSIST REFUGEES TO IMMIGRATE TO CANADA AND AUSTRALIA, AND CONTINUE TO HOPE USG WILL EVENTUALLY TAKE ANOTHER 128, NINETY-FIVE PERCENT OF WHOM ARE SAID TO HAVE CLOSE RELATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES (RECENT REFUGEES THEMSELVES).

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3. THE REMAINING REFUGEES TOTAL 378 PEOPLE, OR 190 CASES (INCLUDING 85 EGYPTIAN COPTS OR 68 CASES). OF THE REFUGEES, WCC HAS PRESENTED 144 INDIVIDUALS TO THE CANADIAN EMBASSY, AND 78 INDIVIDUALS TO THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY. ICMC HAS PRESENTED 28 INDIVIDUALS TO THE CANADIAN EMBASSY, OF WHOM 6 HAVE BEEN REJECTED. ACCORDINGLY, REFUGEES REAMINING AT ATHENS FROM THE ARMENIAN/ASSYRIAN PROGRAM ARE AS FOLLOWS:

AGENCY	NUMBER OF		PRESENTED TO		REJECTED
	INDIVIDUALS	CASES	CANADA	AUSTRALIA	
ICMC	47	23	28	6	
WCC	331	167	144	78	
TOTAL	378	190	172	78	6

6. SINCE DRAFTING THIS MESSAGE WE UNDERSTAND FROM UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE THAT CANADA HAS ACCEPTED 16, AND AUSTRALIA 9, WITH HIGH POSSIBILITY THAT ANOTHER 30 TO 50 WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR IMMIGRATION IN NEAR FUTURE.

KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, CHRISTIANS, ARMENIANS, POLICIES, ASSYRIANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS11620
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760406-0630
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761195/aaaadeja.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <23 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REFUGEES - SOVIET ARMENIAN AND IRAQUI ASSYRIAN CHRISTIANS
TAGS: SREF, OGEN, US, UNHCR
To: STATE GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006